

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR
ON PREPARATION OF 2008 ELECTION BALLOT

Friday, September 12, 2008

Today's ruling by the Hinds County Circuit Court is being appealed today. The official ballot recommended by the Secretary of State, which I approved, is proper and supported by state law. It was prepared using the same format that's been employed for decades. Democratic Secretary of State Eric Clark arranged the ballot in this manner and Republican Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann arranged the ballot in the same way; I approved both of them.

Attorney General Jim Hood issued his opinion advising county election commissioners to ignore the law after the suit challenging the official ballot was filed. Mississippi law, Section 7-5-25, clearly states: "No (Attorney General's) opinion shall be given or considered if the opinion is given after suit is filed." The Attorney General's opinion is not just wrong - it's illegal.

It is disturbing but not surprising that Mississippi's chief legal officer continues to show such a brazen, partisan disregard for the law.

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